

**To:** Wharton, Steve[Wharton.Steve@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Faulk, Libby[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]  
**From:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Thur 10/15/2015 1:33:28 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation  
SilvertonSeptember4Stanislausfollowup Compilation 10 13 15-Final.docx

Steve,

Attached are some NPL related Q&As that were just approved by HQ. I'm not sure they directly address the questions, but perhaps they will help.

Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII

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303-312-6879 -- direct dial

**From:** Wharton, Steve  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:05 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Cc:** Faulk, Libby  
**Subject:** Fwd: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Cynthia - Do we have a Gold King Q&A on this issue, perhaps something related to the NPL status?

Thanks,

Steve

Sent from my EPA iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Mylott, Richard" <[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov](mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** October 14, 2015 at 5:08:16 PM MDT  
**To:** "Williams, Laura" <[williams.laura@epa.gov](mailto:williams.laura@epa.gov)>, "Ostrander, David" <[Ostrander.David@epa.gov](mailto:Ostrander.David@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Smith, Paula" <[Smith.Paula@epa.gov](mailto:Smith.Paula@epa.gov)>, "McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa" <[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov)>, "Wharton, Steve" <[Wharton.Steve@epa.gov](mailto:Wharton.Steve@epa.gov)>  
**Subject: RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation**

Great, I'll look for Steve's input. I think this needs to be a pretty general answer. I also spoke briefly about this with David and he wanted to emphasize that any "long-term solutions" are ultimately contingent on Superfund listing. I tried to capture that, albeit indirectly, in a draft response below.

.....

EPA's immediate focus has been on getting the temporary treatment system constructed and operating. We expect to have more discussions with the state and local stakeholders regarding contaminant sources and impacts in the upper basin and potential solutions. One significant factor in determining the scope and scale of any future activity will be EPA's authorities and the resources associated with those authorities.

**From:** Williams, Laura  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:34 PM  
**To:** Mylott, Richard; Ostrander, David  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Wharton, Steve  
**Subject: RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation**

I forwarded to Steve Wharton as remedial has been working on an Upper Animas watershed assessment/investigation. - lw

**From:** Mylott, Richard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:21 PM  
**To:** Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Subject:** FW: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Per Lisa's message below, can you help with the AP questions on GKM and "long term strategies" below? I also have a separate question from Channel 7 asking if the treatment plant is operational yet...

Seems like general response 1.) outlining next steps in dialogue with DRMS and CDPHE and 2.) referencing what types of information we will be evaluating with state agencies/community for longer term would be sufficient....?

**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:56 PM  
**To:** Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Left Ostrander a message.

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool  
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**From:** Smith, Paula  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:49 PM  
**To:** Mylott, Richard; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Subject:** FW: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Can you shepherd through?

- Paula

**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:42 PM  
**To:** Ostrander, David; McGrath, Shaun; Stalcup, Dana; Williams, Laura  
**Cc:** Grantham, Nancy; Smith, Paula; Deitz, Randy; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy  
**Subject:** Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

All,

Dan Elliott from AP is planning to do a story tomorrow morning saying the temporary plant is about to start up, and looking at possible longer-term solutions.

He says that when he asked CDPHE about "convening a conversation on long-term mitigation strategies," they seemed to know little about it.

He also mentioned our Sept. 23 response to one of his questions: "This system is temporary. Long

term treatment will need to be decided after a more detailed evaluation of mine discharge sources in the Upper Animas watershed." He's asking if EPA is currently conducting a detailed evaluation of mine discharge sources in the area, or plans to conduct such an evaluation.

Can you help me develop a response? His deadline is 11am Eastern tomorrow, but can add info into the story after that if necessary. Please loop in as needed.

Thanks,

Christie

**Christie St. Clair**

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